

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI,

RELATIVE TO

A Geological Survey of that State.

FEBRUARY 29, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States on the subject of a Geological Survey of the State of Missouri.

To the Congress of the United States :

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, would respectfully represent, that said State is possessed of vast agricultural, mineral and commercial resources, in the development of which her own citizens and those of the United States are deeply interested. No species of valuable mineral is found in any portion of the Union, that does not abound in Missouri, with the exception probably of gold and silver. Ores of iron, lead, tin, copper, zinc, mercury, cobalt, antimony and nickel; mineral coal and porcelain and other clays fit for the manufacture of every class of stone ware, have been discovered of fine quality, and several of them in greater quantity than in any other part of America; while the fertility of her soil is not inferior to the best known. Notwithstanding the mines of Missouri, save in the single instance of lead, have never added any considerable amount to the common wealth of the State or Union:—several causes have retarded the development of her resources, to which your memorialists would respectfully invite the attention of Congress. The richness, extent and importance of these resources have never been made fully known to the world; the mineral regions lie generally off of the navigable water courses, and far removed from any present medium of transportation; the State, owing to the pecuniary demands to which she has been subjected on other accounts, has never possessed the ability to remove these obstacles by appropriations of the requisite amounts of money for the purpose. Your memorialists are of opinion that at this time nothing would prove so valuable a means in opening the way to the full development of the vast natural resources of Missouri, as a thorough geological survey and examination of her mines, soils, earths, rocks, water courses and general surface. A memorial to this General Assembly from the members of the Historical and Philosophical

Society of Missouri, containing many valuable suggestions upon the subject, is herewith communicated. The General Assembly of Missouri, impressed with the importance of the considerations therein mentioned, and others presented to their minds would, without further delay, proceed to execute a thorough geological survey of the State, but for the want of means to accomplish it. They therefore respectfully solicit the Congress of the United States the grant of one township of land in each of the United States land districts within this State, to be applied in conjunction with such appropriation as the State of Missouri may provide for the same object, to the expense of accomplishing such survey; and your memorialists would respectfully pray, that the geologist appointed by the State of Missouri to carry out the object of the grant, be authorized to select the lands while executing the work; and the said General Assembly do agree, in the event of Congress making the grant as provided, carefully to husband the fund, and after defraying the expenses of the contemplated survey, to apply the residue to the establishment and endowment of a school of agriculture, mining, metallurgy, chemistry, &c., which shall never be abolished by the State or suffered to fall. The donation of land now desired would be of incalculable benefit to Missouri, without imposing any burden upon the general government which would be felt by her. Indeed, your memorialists confidently believe that such a donation, applied to such a purpose would give to the general government, in the enhanced value and readier sale of her lands, the increased population and enlarged commerce from which her revenues are drawn, the greater facilities which would be afforded to the military and naval interests on the waters in the West, and the addition which might be expected to secure to the general intelligence, resources, power and wealth of the Union—far greater advantages than could possibly be realized from retaining the trifling amount which is desired. Your memorialists would beg leave to refer to the fact, that Congress has frequently recognised the force of these suggestions as touching the promotion of her own interests, and with that view has been induced to expend, at different times, large sums of money for geological surveys in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, which have done so much to stimulate, expand and develop the agricultural and commercial interests of the people residing therein. It is now executing a thorough survey of the Minesoto Territory. The people of Missouri have seen and felt the injury they have sustained by the superior attraction which have been added to their neighbors in this particular, by the munificence of Congress, and regretted that nothing of this character had been undertaken in Missouri, as well on account of their own as the interest of the general government. On a kindred subject, a most enlightened policy has hitherto characterized the action of Congress. Without referring to the numerous instances we beg leave to allude to the Atlantic and lake surveys, the examination of some of the rivers and harbors on the Pacific coast, the exploring expedition—the exploration of the route across the Rocky mountains, and an examination of the geographical features of the country on and connected with that route. Sustained by the strong hand of your honorable body, these surveys and explorations have been made, and have resulted not only in the development of our resources as a nation fostering agriculture, commerce and the mechanic arts, but have placed our government on the most elevated grounds. Your memorialists believe that the hidden mineral wealth, the dormant agricultural power, and the capabili-

ties of navigation so remarkable in Missouri, would be fully developed by the execution of the survey now sought: and the valuable lands owned by the general government in this State would be rapidly settled; affording a home of plenty, comfort and health to that best of all population—the tillers of the soil. It seems to your memorialists that after what has been done so bountifully for others, without solicitation as far as they are advised, the General Assembly of Missouri may have reason to expect as matter of right from the Congress of the United States, the appropriation now most respectfully desired.

Approved February 5, 1849.

Resolved by the Senate, (the House of Representatives concurring therein,)
That it shall be the duty of the secretary of State to transmit to each of our senators and representatives in Congress a copy of all memorials and resolutions passed by the present General Assembly.

